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Am. Home Economics Assn.
Am. Institute of Elec. Engineers
Am. Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers
Am. Railway Association
Am. Soc. of Civil Engineers
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The American Standards Association is organized to provide systematic means of cooperation in establishing American Standards to the end that duplication of work and the promulgation of conflicting standards may be avoided; to serve as a clearing house for information on standardization work in the United States and foreign countries; to act as the authoritative American channel in international cooperation in standardization work

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Government Board for Consumer Standards Proposed by NRA Committee

A Government board to develop and promulgate standards for all types of products sold to the ultimate consumer has been proposed by the Consumers' Advisory Board of the NRA. The Board would be set up jointly by the Consumers' Advisory Board and the Consumers' Council of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and financed by them.

According to the proposal, the Board would have a budget of $65,000 for the first year, funds to be supplied by the Consumers' Advisory Board and the Consumers' Council. The Board would consist of a director and technical staff with an interdepartmental advisory committee drawn from appropriate Federal bureaus.

The Committee on Consumer Standards, a subcommittee of the Consumers' Advisory Board of the NRA, which prepared the proposal, is under the chairmanship of Dr. Robert S. Lynd, Professor of Political Science, Columbia University. Other members of the committee are: Dr. Thomas Blaisdell, Consumers' Counsel of the AAA; Professor Caroline Ware of Vassar College.

The proposal is here reprinted with the omission of a part of the appendices.

In brief, the committee declares that the aims of the Recovery program demand the inclusion in codes of standards for goods sold to the ultimate consumer. The consumer cannot be protected properly, in the view of the committee, without standards which will give him some of the advantages available to large governmental and industrial purchasers able to buy on specifications.

The committee finds that adequate standards "designed to inform the consumer as to what he is buying are not available for the great bulk of products purchased at retail." It is urged that standards for consumer goods be developed by a new governmental agency with the consumer point of view. The belief is expressed that the U. S. Bureau of Standards, the American Standards Association, and other bodies now engaged in the development of standards are so strongly oriented to the point of view of industry that they can not be entrusted with the task. It is suggested, however, that the services of the Commercial Standards Unit of the Bureau of Standards and of the American Standards Association be enlisted in securing acceptance of standards by industry. The laboratories of the Bureau of Standards would be counted on heavily for research and testing.

I. *The need for consumer standards.*

The administration of the Recovery Acts, long-time stabilization of industry in the interest of all the groups concerned, and the effective enhancing of the real income of American families all demand that technically sound, informative standards be developed for consumer goods.

Conditions of modern industry necessitate the use of standards to designate the quality of goods bought at retail. The consumer is far less able to be his own judge of quality today when goods are very numerous, highly fabricated, and sold under thousands of brand names and advertising slogans, than he was when goods were relatively few, simply fabricated, and familiar to him through his direct experience in producing and handling them.

The organization of the NRA includes the consumers as one of the three groups in whose interests codes are drawn. Both the Consumers' Advisory Board of NRA and the Consumers' Counsel of AAA have recognized that price unrelated to quality is unreliable, and that provision for the inclusion of standards is accordingly a necessary part of codes of fair competition. The elimination of unfair methods of competition must include competition in quality as well as in price. Both agencies have submitted proposed clauses requiring the development of quality standards and their inclusion in the codes.

Furthermore, the aim of the recovery program to increase and spread purchasing power calls for the maximizing of money income in terms of goods. In view of the low level of income to which the depression has reduced American families and the pressure of rising prices upon these incomes, it is imperative that the wastes inherent in unscientific consumer buying should, as far as possible, be eliminated. It is already established practice for governmental agencies, industrial concerns, and large

buyers to purchase according to specifications in order that they may secure maximum use-value. A partial summary of estimated savings by this procedure is appended in Appendix B.[1] The small purchaser should, as far as possible, be placed in a position to use his limited funds to equal advantage.

A further direct saving to the ultimate consumer should result both from a reduction in unit manufacturing cost where goods are made to specification, and from lowering the costs of retail distribution through numerous savings, including the lessening of the "returned goods evil." As regards this last, President Hoover, in his annual report as Secretary of Commerce in 1922, said "The lack of . . . established grades and standards of quality adds very largely to the cost of distribution because of the necessity of buying and selling upon sample or otherwise, and because of the risk of fraud and misrepresentation, and consequently the larger margins of trading."

The stabilization of industry will be directly furthered by the regularizing effect of a widespread use of standards.

II. *Lack of available consumer standards.*

Adequate standards designed to inform the consumer as to what he is buying are not available for the great bulk of products purchased at retail. According to the National Industrial Conference Board's 1929 study of industrial standardization: "Formal, deliberate, selective standardization has been mostly applied, up to the present time, in the procurement, manufacture, and simplification of producers' goods. . . . If one were to compare the amount of standardization work in the field of producers' goods and services to the range of goods to be found in the catalog of a large mail-order house, it would seem that the work has hardly begun."

The Bureau of Standards stated in 1930 that, "In general, it may be said that the producers are experts in their own commodity field, but seldom is the consumer given the full benefit of this knowledge. . . . Under present conditions this group knowledge is suppressed and the tendency is all too frequent to give the buyer merely what he asks for." Commercial brands, designed to meet competitive merchandising conditions, do not serve adequately in lieu of adequate consumer standards, for not only do they tend to be present by the score for each commodity in a given community (*See Appendix C*),[2] but also the development of inferior-quality "fighting brands" of nationally advertised commodities to meet the price competition of "private" brands further confuses the situation for the consumer.

While Commercial Standards usually entail some advantages to the consumer, they do not, as shown below, meet the needs of consumers satisfactorily.

III. *Importance of having consumer standards developed by an agency with the consumer point of view.*

Satisfactory consumer standards must be built upon analysis of commodities in their final forms in which they are purchased over-the-counter at retail; this analysis must be in terms of actual consumer use-conditions; and the standards must be presented in terms of specifications and grades determined in the light of such use-conditions and useable by non-technical purchasers at retail.

This need is not met either by current standards for the producers' and intermediate consumers' goods or by Commercial Standards, as set forth in Appendix D.[3] The former do not cover commodities in the form in which they are sold over-the-counter at retail. The latter, "prepared or selected" according to Dr. Burgess, late director of the Bureau of Standards,[4] "by the industry's own leaders," represent not primarily consumer needs but what industry and trade is able to agree to within the exigent conditions of current competitive practice. As such the latter are able to move only part way in the direction of consumer needs, their specifications and grades are customarily drawn from the commercial point of view, and their nomenclatures are often misleading to the purchaser at retail. They are drafted primarily with an eye to the competitive conditions of producers and distributors.

Although such producer or commercial standards as have the net effect of improving the quality or reducing the cost of commodities indirectly redound to the consumer's advantage, the logic of the competitive producing and merchandising system within which business operates does not call for direct, informative service to the consumer. The competitive situation which industry and retailing face is such as to render it difficult, if not impossible, for

[1] Appendix B, not reprinted here, cites the estimated saving of $100,000,000 made by the Federal Government by buying on specifications and also specific savings such as that made by the Association of American Colleges which "found that by changing the specifications on tennis nets the life of the nets would be doubled, and the cost reduced from $36 a dozen to $16.50 a dozen."

[2] Appendix C, not reprinted, includes the following figures: Number of commercial brands on the market to 1928: wheat flour, 10,000; canned corn, 4500; peaches, 1000. Number of brands in use in Milwaukee in 1930 as found by survey of 5000 families: breakfast foods, 87; package cheese, 36; package coffee, 101; tooth brushes, 256; shaving cream, 73; fountain pens, 164.

[3] See page 6.

[4] Press release. "What the Bureau of Standards Is Doing for Business." October 29, 1931.

the maker or seller of a commodity to exercise much initiative in elevating standards far beyond current competitive practices. Consumers cannot, therefore, reasonably look at present to industry, or to agencies whose approach has been traditionally, and by the nature of their work, that of the producer or distributor, for the development of standards which will encourage in any forthright fashion efficient and informed retail buying.

IV. *Existing agencies working on standardization* (*See Appendix D*)

A partial tabulation of expenditures for standardization in the United States in 1926, based upon incomplete returns, is as follows:

Trade associations	$2,992,015.54
Technical societies	830,500.56
State governments	134,240.00
Federal Government	4,250,500.00
Total	$8,207,256.10

Appendix D contains a critical appraisal of current standardization in terms of its application to ultimate consumer goods purchased at retail. As suggested there, if we except certain of the work of the Department of Agriculture, very little of the above sum eventuated in standards satisfactory to the needs of ultimate consumers buying over-the-counter: it was devoted either to the standardization of producers' and intermediate consumers' goods, or to consumers' goods standardized by industry and not sold in such form as to facilitate the comparison of grades by the buyer at retail, or to standards such as the Federal Specifications couched in technical terminology readily useable only by technical purchasers.

The *Standards Yearbook, 1933*, compiled by the Bureau of Standards, lists 57 bureaus or independent establishments of the Federal Government as Federal Standardizing Agencies. These include the Bureaus of Standards, Mines, and Fisheries, under the Department of Commerce; of Agricultural Economics, Home Economics, Food and Drug Administration, Animal, Dairy, and Plant Industry, Chemistry and Soils, Agricultural Engineering, and Forest Service, under the Department of Agriculture; Army and Navy Departments; Government Printing Office; Federal Specifications Board; and other departmental and independent establishments.

Other types of agencies engaged in one aspect or another of standardization include the following:

Twenty-three technical societies are listed by the National Industrial Conference Board[5] as engaged in standardization work in 1926.

Sixty-nine trade associations are listed by the same source.

Other industrial and merchandising bodies include such producing units as the Bell Telephone Company, General Motors Corporation, Westinghouse Electric Company, Detroit Edison Company, International Harvester Company, Singer Manufacturing Company, to name but a few; and large retail units such as Sears Roebuck, Montgomery Ward, and R. H. Macy & Co.

A considerable volume of scattered work is done in university and college laboratories, some of it under Purnell funds.

A few consumer agencies, such as Consumers' Research, and the American Home Economics Association, sponsor a small amount of standardization work.

As noted above, and in Appendix D, the overwhelming proportion of all of the above standardization agencies, both public and private, operate primarily to serve industry and lack the consumer point of view. University and college research tends to a considerable extent to be subsidized by industry. The insignificant number of consumer organizations lack funds. A central agency is needed to coordinate the work of these many public and private bodies, to orient it where possible directly to consumer needs, and to supplement it.

V. *Need for Government leadership in developing consumer standards*

The present emergency administrations are in need of a substantial volume of immediate work in connection with their industry codes and agreements.

In view of the almost complete absence of adequate consumer standards, the task of developing them is so great and the need so pressing that this work cannot be left to commercial agencies and scattered laboratories. It requires the authority and prestige which Washington alone can give, if existing scattered work is to be coordinated and new work driven promptly ahead.

The fact that industry and commerce are organized, and have possessed extensive financial resources, has led to the preoccupation of technical personnel and laboratories with industry's problems, while the unorganized consumer has been very largely neglected. Outside of government there is no agency which can furnish adequate funds to meet the ac-

[5] National Industrial Conference Board. *Industrial Standardization*. 1929. Appendix K.

cumulated need for standards faced by 30,000,000 families.

Hitherto, the functions of the government in relation to its citizens in their capacity as consumers have been largely overlooked, while its services to industry have been steadily augmented. The spending of the national income is no less important to national welfare than the earning of that income through industry and commerce. In rendering this service to the American public as consumers, the federal government will be taking a first step toward redressing the balance of government service now weighted heavily on the side of production.

Recommended Action

VI. *The agency best suited to develop a program of consumer standards*

The Committee on Consumer Standards has canvassed all possible departments and bureaus under which a program of consumer standardization might be developed. In doing so it has weighed carefully the relative advantage of working through a centralized operating agency as over against that of relying as at present upon the initiative of scattered government bureaus supplemented by the work of other agencies. It has weighed the possibility of developing the needed work in an enlarged program under any one of the existing federal or private bodies. It has been guided by considerations of the magnitude of the needed work; the need for auspices that will encourage a free and forthright approach in consumer terms to problems already heavily charged with industrial emphasis; the need for coordination in planning, basic research, and in the promulgation of standards; the need for as immediate action as is consistent with sound procedure; and the existing commitments of the various branches of the government, both in terms of program and of budget.

The recommendation of the Committee on Consumer Standards is that a Consumer Standards Board be established at once under the Consumers' Advisory Board of NRA and Consumers' Counsel of AAA. This board would do no laboratory research or in any way overlap adequate work under way in any arm of the government service; it would, however, provide, for the first time in our governmental administration, a central planning, coordinating, and standards-promulgating agency in the field of consumer standards.

Joint action by the NRA and AAA consumer agencies on consumer standards would present no administrative difficulties. They are closely linked in membership and policy and their work is being linked steadily more closely together, as in the recently inaugurated joint program of consumer organization and education under Paul H. Douglas.

In establishing these consumer agencies, the Federal Government has for the first time clearly indicated its recognition of its responsibility to consumers as such. They are already working for the insertion of consumer standards in the emergency codes, and the further explicit development of consumer standards is not only a logical extension of their current work but a clear responsibility in the preparation of industry codes.

There is an obvious disadvantage in establishing a board whose functions call for permanency under bodies set up on an emergency basis. The Committee of Consumer Standards frankly recognizes the possibility of drastic reorganization affecting the status of the Consumers' Advisory Board and Consumers' Counsel; but it nevertheless believes that since the initial step has been taken toward recognizing that the consumer needs an agency in the Federal Government especially entrusted with his problems, there are sufficiently strong grounds for expectation that some agency charged with responsibility for consumer affairs will be continued somewhere in the government to warrant the present establishment of the Consumer Standards Board under NRA and AAA. Whatever disposition administrative expediency may ultimately dictate, the work of the Consumer Standards Board will be of a self-validating nature such that there should be no difficulty in finding an acceptable place within the Government for the Board.

The positive advantages of placing the Consumer Standards Board under NRA and AAA consumer auspices is reinforced by the disadvantages which appear when the possibility of placing it with any other bureau is considered. If placed under any existing bureau within one of the regular departments, it would be handicapped in its effort to coordinate the work now being done in many different branches of the government by inevitable inter-departmental rivalries and prerogatives. The regular bureaus, moreover, are operating on strictly limited budgets and are not in a position to act quickly, while funds may be made available under NRA and AAA for immediate work.

Of the specific bureaus which might be considered, the Bureau of Standards is the most obvious one to undertake this consumer standardization work. Apart from its sharing the disadvantages common to all existing bureaus, the Bureau of Standards is not recommended for the task because of its loca-

tion in the Department of Commerce and the fact that the past history of its Commercial Standards division, its planned future close cooperation with the industrially affiliated American Standards Association, and the presence of research workers supported by industry in its laboratories, all give it a traditionally industrial approach. Although a Consumer Standards Board must lean heavily upon the technical division of the Bureau of Standards for basic research and testing and upon its Commercial Standards division for cooperative contacts with industry, it cannot leave to the Bureau the task of representing the consumer point of view and developing standards which fully meet consumer needs.

The disadvantages in placing a Consumer Standards Board under any of the bureaus in the Department of Agriculture include the fact that the latter are primarily concerned with agricultural products, while the great majority of commodity areas and those most in need of standardization are industrial products. Moreover, with the exception of the Bureau of Home Economics and the regulatory activities of the Food and Drug Administration, the concern of the Department has been primarily with the production and marketing rather than the use of agricultural products.

VII. *Proposed organization, duties, and administrative budget of Consumer Standards Board*

A. This Board should be set up jointly by the Consumers' Advisory Board and Consumers' Counsel, responsible to them, and financed through them.

B. It should be made up of:

(1). A technical staff consisting of a Director and Commodity Specialists in charge of as many commodity fields as funds permit. The minimum number should be seven specialists in charge of the following fields:

1. Clothing and other textiles.
2. Furniture, kitchen utensils, chinaware.
3. Toilet articles, cleansing and polishing materials.
4. Fuel, plumbing and heating equipment, stoves, automobile equipment.
5. Foods, beverages, drugs.
6. Leather, rubber, paints and other surface finishes.
7. Radio, electrical equipment and miscellaneous.

(2). An interdepartmental coordinating committee, advisory to the technical staff, containing representatives of:

The Bureau of Standards—division of Research and Testing
The Bureau of Standards—division of Commercial Standards
The Federal Specifications Board
The Bureau of Agricultural Economics
The Bureau of Home Economics
The Food and Drug Administration
The Bureau of Fisheries
The Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Food Research Division
The Bureau of Mines
The Consumers' Advisory Board
The Consumers' Counsel

C. The duties of the Board should be to coordinate and make available in form for consumer use the existing work of public and private standardizing agencies; to determine the areas of most needed new work; to designate, after consultation with consumers and industry, the qualities to be considered in testing a given commodity; to arrange with appropriate Federal or other laboratories for needed tests; to draw up standards based on the preceding; and to promulgate standards. (See Appendix E[6] for a more detailed statement of duties.)

D. Budget for the first year.

Director	$7,500
3 Commodity Specialists @5,600	16,800
4 Commodity Specialists @4,800	19,200
5 Clerical @1,800	9,000
Travel of Staff and Consumer Consultants (1)	5,000
Supplies and Office Equipment	2,000
Printing and Miscellaneous	5,500
	$65,000

NOTE: Since consumer representatives cannot travel to hearings or conferences on expense accounts as do industry representatives, it is necessary to make provision for their travel expenses here.

Special Funds For Research and Testing:

Since the creation of a Consumer Standards Board does not contemplate the setting up of additional laboratory facilities to duplicate the extensive technical equipment of existing governmental bureaus; and since, at the same time, the development

[6] See page 8.

of consumer standards will require a heavier volume of basic research and testing than can be carried by existing Federal laboratory budgets, the Committee on Consumer Standards also Recommends:

(1). That a sum of not less than $250,000 be made available for such research and testing, at the Bureau of Standards, or other laboratories specially equipped to test industrial products, and, in the several bureaus of the Department of Agriculture and other correspondingly equipped laboratories outside the Federal service, as shall be requested by the Consumer Standards Board.

APPENDIX D

Critical appraisal of work of existing standardizing agencies from the point of view of their potential usefulness for developing a program of consumer standardization

I. *Government agencies*

A. *Bureau of Standards:*

The range of the basic research done at the Bureau, as described in the memorandum submitted by the Director on November 15, 1933, and attached to this Appendix as Exhibit A,[7] reveals the outstanding significance of this agency for a program of consumer standardization. The Bureau has been closely affiliated with the work of industry, having been called, in fact, "the agency of the Department of Commerce for research and testing for the industries."[8] The bulk of the Bureau's work has concerned the development of standardized methods of testing basic materials and the actual testing of basic materials. "In general, the Bureau's tests of finished materials or devices (the forms in which most families buy their commodities) have been made primarily for the benefit of the Government itself." Such work, including both basic research and the actual drafting of Federal specifications, suggests that the Bureau already has an important mass of latent material which, while in most cases not in final form for inclusion in over-the-counter consumer standards, could be made to contribute materially to the development of such standards if technical personnel and funds were available.

Attention is called particularly to the third paragraph of the Director's statement:

> "While it is true that much of the Bureau's work has been on what may be called industrial materials, as distinguished from 'over-the-counter' consumer goods, this is simply a reflection of the fact that until very recently no one has made much progress in the development of specifications for the latter class of goods. As soon as any one takes up seriously the problem of specifying the quality of such goods it will be found that research on methods of testing is at least as vital here as it was in the case of basic materials. A very considerable beginning has already been made in this field as is indicated in the more detailed discussion below, but an adequate attack on the general problem would require far greater resources than have hitherto been available. An essential condition for its success would also be the cooperation of organized groups or agencies prepared to formulate the collective views of intelligent consumers of the several classes of goods."

Obviously the Bureau of Standards should play a leading role in the basic testing of all commodities save food, drugs, cosmetics, fuels, and other occasional commodities on which other Federal laboratories have been working.

In addition to its major program of basic research and testing, the Bureau of Standards has also developed in recent years a program of Commercial Standardization. These commercial standards are, as their name implies, frankly drafted for industrial use and represent only that stage which 65 per cent of the production in a given field is willing to accept. They should not in any sense be confused with consumer standards, as (*a*) they tend to represent standardization in terms of current commercial practice rather than in terms of consumer use-needs; (*b*) their nomenclature is frequently informative only to technical buyers and confusing to the family purchaser; (*c*) they have not in general been accepted in the past by experts in the field of consumer standards as satisfactory substitutes for genuine consumer standards. While they represent an actual advance over present industrial confusion and are a desirable step in the process of levelling up current industrial and commercial procedures, they should not be confused with standards based on consumer use-conditions and aimed primarily at helping the consumer to buy intelligently.

The procedure outlined in this report for the development of consumer standards contemplates co-operative work with the Commercial Standards section of the Bureau in the preliminary stages involving conference with manufacturers and distributors and in the analysis of current merchandising practices relating to a given commodity. The two procedures would diverge thereafter when the Commercial Standards work would concern itself with getting such agreement as 65 per cent of the industry will accept, while the Consumer Standards Board would proceed to draft what to the consumer would be a more adequate standard. In working for industrial acceptance of the latter, the cooperation of the Commercial Standards division would again be sought.

B. *Bureau of Agricultural Economics:*

The standards work of this bureau has dealt primarily with agricultural commodities in terms which will facilitate the wholesale marketing of these commodities. Only in the case of butter, canned goods, and retail meats have standards been drawn up for consumer use. The meat grades are more understandable to the merchant than to the consumer. Grains are graded, but the flour and bread made from them are not. With respect to fruits and vegetables, "these grades were not developed with the consumer especially in mind—Until grades especially adapted to her needs are developed, the housewife will have to depend on the advice offered her and her own good judgment."[9] For basic research, for reworking of producers' or commercial standards in terms for consumer use, and, in specific cases, for the preparation of actual consumer standards, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is in a position to cooperate with a Consumer Standards Board in the food field in much the same way that the Bureau of Standards could with respect to non-food products of industry.

C. *Bureau of Home Economics:*

The standardization work of this bureau differs from that of other government agencies in that it has always been approached from the consumer standpoint. Its chief work has been on foods and textiles. Through its consumer contacts, even more than through its limited volume of standardization work, it is in a position to cooperate with the Consumer Standards Board in discovering and formulating consumer

[7] Not included in this reprint.

[8] "Research Associates at the Bureau of Standards." Circular No. 296, 1926.

[9] Hill, R. G. A fruit and vegetable buying guide for consumers. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Misc. Pub. 167, Aug. 1933.

needs, and particularly in making formulated standards available to consumers.

D. *Other Federal agencies:*

The Federal Specifications Board has promulgated several hundred master specifications for Government purchasing. These do not in themselves constitute satisfactory consumer standards. Some of the existing specifications may be considered as covering adequately one of several needed consumer grades or one of several features regarded as essential to a standard satisfactory for consumer use. A Consumer Standards Board would, however, be able to draw heavily on the work of the Federal Specifications Board.

Other arms of the Government services whose work touches the problem of consumer standards include the Food and Drug Administration, the Food Research Division of the Bureau of Chemistry, the Bureau of Dairy Industry, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, the Bureau of Mines, the Bureau of Fisheries, the Bureau of Public Health, the Army and Navy Department in their purchasing divisions, the Forest Service, and the Government Printing Office. All of these could be drawn on for research or advice in their fields of competency.

II. *Technical societies*

A. *American Standards Association:*

This outstanding standardization agency does no technical research or testing, but draws up standards and secures their acceptance. Its thirty-seven member bodies consist of eighteen national industrial associations, ten industrial technical societies, eight departments of the Federal government, and one technical society representing consumers. Under the Plan of Cooperation provisionally agreed upon by the American Standards Association and the Bureau of Standards on November 13, 1933, the American Standards Association will work jointly with the Simplified Practice and Commercial Standards divisions of the Bureau of Standards in developing American Simplified Practice Recommendations and American Commercial Standards to be published by the American Standards Association with the following statement: "Approved by the American Standards Association and promulgated with the concurrence of the United States Bureau of Standards."

The American Standards Association also desires to become the American agency to develop consumer standards. While the Committee on Consumer Standards of the Consumers' Advisory Board recognizes the desirability of utilizing to the fullest the cooperation of the American Standards Association in the securing of industrial and commercial acceptance of consumer standards, it considers the relinquishment of leadership in the development of promulgation of consumer standards to the American Standards Association as undesirable for the following reasons:

(1). The American Standards Association is overwhelmingly an industrial agency, concerned with producers' and intermediate consumers' goods, in terms of membership, focus, operation to date, and support. Its "chief function," according to its 1932-1933 *Year Book* is to "provide a means for various industries, technical organizations, and governmental departments to work together in developing national industrial standards acceptable to all groups."

(2). As such, its work is characterized by the extreme slowness which securing a large measure of industrial agreement in advance necessarily entails, for a 90 per cent concurrence of its Council is necessary for approval as an "American Standard," and 75 per cent concurrence for an "American Tentative Standard" or "American Recommended Practice." It is common experience that competitive conditions do not allow industry to deviate far from current commercial practice in establishing standards; and that standards acceptable to 90 or even 75 per cent of industry at any given time are in the overwhelming majority of cases not standards drafted primarily in terms of private consumer needs.

(3). The difficulty of promulgating standards for over-the-counter consumer commodities under the American Standards Association is reflected in the fact that while several hundred commodities have been taken up for standardization by the Association and between one and two hundred approved, only four standards for commodities purchased by consumers at retail have to date been pushed to some kind of settlement: of these two were abandoned because of inability to secure industrial concurrence, while the other two represent, in the first case, gas equipment (for which there is a highly articulate technical pressure by safety agencies), and, in the other, ice refrigerators (a declining industry which was ready to accept standardization as an aid in its fight against mechanical refrigeration).

(4). The backwardness of standardization of consumer commodities, representing an almost total lack of work during recent decades when industrial standards have been developing, renders it extremely unwise to entrust the belated development of consumer standards to an agency which must drop a standard unless it can receive 75 per cent approval within its overwhelmingly industry-focussed Council.

B. *Other technical societies:*

The technical societies engaged in developing standards have included such large groups of industrial engineers as the American Society for Testing Materials, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. The membership of these societies is made up largely of men closely associated with industry and industrial processes in their professional capacities as technicians and consulting engineers. As in the case of the industrial and commercial establishments already described, the work of these societies covers industrial materials almost exclusively.

III. *Industrial and commercial agencies*

Since the World War, industrial and commercial agencies have made rapid strides in the direction of standardization through their own special laboratories. These include a lengthening list of industrial corporations such as the Bell Telephone Company and the Westinghouse Company, trade associations such as the American Petroleum Institute, National Electric Light Association, National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, National Electrical Manufacturers' Association, and Cotton Textile Institute, certain large retailers such as Sears, Roebuck and Company, Montgomery, Ward and Company, and R. H. Macy and Company, and upwards of three hundred commercial laboratories.

This work is almost entirely devoted to the standardization of producers' and intermediate consumers' goods and to facilitating competitive commercial buying. Where it has involved ultimate consumer goods, the interests of industry have dictated the work and direct service to the consumer has been incidental, though in many instances substantial. As such, these commercial agencies all tend to have the same limitation from the standpoint of the consumer standards.

IV. *Colleges and universities*

A substantial volume of scattered research fundamental to the development of standards is being carried on in the college and university laboratories of the country. Some of the most directly useful is that conducted in land-grant colleges under Purnell funds. A partial list of relevant current projects in land-grant colleges is appended as Exhibit D[10] of this Appendix. The isolated workers in university laboratories are badly in need of the type of support and stimulation which a central consumer standardization agency in Washington could provide.

V. *Consumer agencies*

Among organized groups representing consumer interests in the effort to promote consumer standards the most active have been the American Home Economics Association and Consumers' Research. Owing to its very meager funds, the work of the American Home Economics Association has been confined to promotion, consultation, and the encouragement of research through a limited number of fellowships. Con-

[10] Not included in this reprint.

sumers' Research, a non-profit membership service which ranks existing competing commodities for its member consumers, likewise operates on a minimum budget both as to research and promotion.

APPENDIX E

Itemized procedure of Consumers Standards Board in developing consumer standards:

In developing standards for consumer goods, the Consumers Standards Board would:

1. Canvass the field of consumer standardization—
   (*a*). To discover what existing standards are at present available in form for consumer use, may be made available by a minimum of work.
   (*b*). To determine the relative need for and practicability of work in various commodity fields.
   (*c*). To draw together from the Bureau of Standards, other public bureaus, private commercial and professional laboratories, and colleges and universities, basic text material already available for the formulation of consumer standards.
2. Define, after conference with consumers and industry, the qualities, in terms of use, upon which consumer standards are to be based. These standards should both provide minimum specifications for given products and, where the nature of the product makes grading possible, establish grades for such products.
3. Secure necessary basic testing in terms of the qualities so defined for a given commodity, using such testing laboratories as are available in and outside of the Federal Government. The Consumer Standards Board should *not* contemplate setting up its own laboratory to make technical tests. Wherever possible, government expense should be avoided by drawing upon the work of reliable university and college laboratories.
4. Analyze proposed standards in terms of cost to the consumer in order to secure for each set of standard grades the optimum relation between cost and quality.
5. Draw up standards with appropriate nomenclature.
6. Promulgate as national consumer standards, both suitable standards developed by other agencies and those formulated in the manner prescribed above.
7. Cooperate with the division of Commercial Standards of the Bureau of Standards, the American Standards Association, and other suitable bodies in securing acceptance of standards by industry, and with the Bureau of Home Economics, the Department of Labor, the American Home Economics Association, and other suitable bodies in securing consumer acceptance.

A Survey of Standards and Grade Marking in 150 NRA Codes

by

Alice L. Edwards, *Executive Secretary*
American Home Economics Association

An analysis, prepared largely from the consumer point of view, of the provisions dealing with standards in the first 150 codes approved by the President

Industrial codes developed and adopted under the NRA are devices by which the Administration and industry are endeavoring to bring about a better economic and social adjustment in this country. The results to be obtained from the adoption of these codes depend largely on the soundness and adequacy of their provisions and the efficiency with which these provisions are enforced.

Interest has been expressed by certain consumers in the effect these codes will have on the quality of the products manufactured by the various industries and whether or not in the future it will be easier for consumers to obtain reliable information about the products sold over the retail counter.

An examination of the trade-practice sections of 150 codes already approved by the President reveals that 56 contain no provisions which deal with misrepresentation of commodities to consumers, or standards, or grade marking of commodities. Ninety-four codes contain one or more clauses having to do with misrepresentation, grades, or standards, but of this number the clauses in 55 codes only forbid misrepresentations and do not specify that any special type of information about products must be given. The other 39 codes have clauses which require that certain information be provided or that in some degree recognize grades and standards.

Clauses on misrepresentation vary in phrasing. Some of the codes contain only a brief clause listing as an unfair trade practice "Mislabeling, misbranding, and false or misleading advertising."

Other codes include two clauses, one dealing specifically with false marking and labeling, and another concerning false advertising. They may read:

> (1). *False Marking.*—The false marking or branding of any product of the industry which has the tendency to mislead or deceive customers or prospective customers as to the grade, quality, quantity, substance, character, nature, or origin,

size, finish, or preparations of any product of the industry is prohibited as an unfair method of competition.

(2). *False Advertising.*—The making or causing or permitting to be made or published, any false, untrue, or deceptive statement by way of advertisement or otherwise concerning the grade, quality, quantity, substance, character, nature, origin, size, or preparation of any product of the industry having the tendency and capacity to mislead or deceive purchasers or prospective purchasers is prohibited as an unfair method of competition.

Only 39 of the codes as stated above provide in any way for the recognition and use of grades or standards in the merchandising of the products of the industries concerned. Most of them also include clauses about misbranding and false advertising. Of these the code of the lumber and timber products industry is one in which the main scheme of retail selling is based on established grades requiring the labeling of products as to grade. These grades and labels are recognized in the code of the retail lumber, lumber products, building materials, and building specialties industry.

The code of the cement industry states:

1. All Portland Cement marketed by members of the industry shall comply with the standard specifications for Portland Cement of the American Society for Testing Materials, and the American Standards Association, and/or the Federal Specifications Board. Members of the industry may sell cement under modified Portland Cement specifications that are designed to meet special or unusual conditions not adequately or properly covered by the specifications hereinabove referred to, provided, however, that the price at which such modified Portland Cements are sold shall be filed with the Code Authority.

2. Every member of the industry shall guarantee his products to comply with all of the conditions of the specifications under which they are sold, but shall not be responsible for the improper use of cements and therefore shall not guarantee finished work, nor shall the member of the industry be responsible for condition of product after delivery.

A clause in the code of the concrete masonry industry reads:

(*e*). *Conformity with Specifications.* To sell or offer for sale any product of the industry with intent to deceive customers or prospective customers as to the quality, quantity, size, grade, or substance of such product. All products shall meet the specifications of the American Concrete Institute or American Society for Testing Materials for concrete masonry units.

The structural clay products industry declares an unfair trade practice:

The practice of selling or offering for sale nonstandard grades, sizes, dimensions, or classifications of structural clay products, as determined by the branch committee of each branch of the industry, subject to review by the Administrator, for the purpose of gaining an unfair competitive advantage.

Making misleading guarantees by a manufacturer of structural clay products, as regards the performance of his product or the performance of any structure in which such product is used.

The code of the reinforcing materials fabricating industry contains a clause requiring that different kinds and classes of reinforcing material with the quality or grade indicated be itemized in contracts and bids. Elaborate rules of standard practice tending to insure safety are given and are to be made a part of every contract.

The code of the limestone industry declares:

Submitting of bids unless and until the awarding authority inviting the bids makes available complete plans and/or specifications and other pertinent information in order that the bidder may prepare a complete estimate or bid in accordance therewith, shall be an unfair method of competition.

The code of the floor and wall clay tile manufacturing industry requires that all tiles sold or shipped by any member of that industry shall be branded either standard or second in accordance with minimum grade specifications developed under the United States Department of Commerce.

It is declared to be an unfair practice by the code of the iron and steel industry to:

Make any sale or contract of sale of any product under any description which does not fully describe such product in terms customarily used in the Industry.

The code of the copper and brass mill products industry includes under general unfair practices:

Adherence to Standards. Deviation from stand-

ard specifications to be established by the Copper and Brass Mill Products Association for products of the Industry for the purpose of evading the provisions of this Code is forbidden as unfair competition.

The industrial supplies and distributors trade states in its code under unfair competition:

> Delivering merchandise which fails to conform exactly to the samples or specifications on which prices are quoted.
>
> Agreeing to conditions or terms of sale, or making promises of any nature which manifestly cannot be fulfilled.

The pipe nipple manufacturing industry has included provisions in its code which require the furnishing of information as to the grade of pipe and pipe nipples.

The code of the all metal insect screen industry lists as unfair trade practices:

> Deviation from standards of the finished product as may be established by the industry and approved by the President.
>
> Wilfully misrepresenting market conditions in order to influence sale.
>
> Substitution of merchandise inferior to that called for in the specifications.
>
> Omitting parts called for in specifications.

Standards related to safety features are present in the codes of the liquified gas and the plumbago crucible industries. The code authority of the motor fire apparatus manufacturing industry is directed to determine specifications for standard equipment for that industry. The code of the gas cock industry provides that:

> "The Association, in cooperation with the testing laboratories of the American Gas Association, may prepare standard specifications for the respective types, sizes, and weights of gas cocks. When such standard specifications have been prepared and published to the Industry, no producer shall knowingly sell any gas cock as an A.G.A. approved gas cock unless such gas cock conforms with such standard specifications."

The code of the electric storage and wet primary battery industry listed as an unfair trade practice failure either to mark or brand each battery or to refer to published specifications relative to the capacity and quality of the battery.

The code of the Wall Paper Industry has a section on standards which provides that all manufacturers shall comply with commercial standards promulgated by the Department of Commerce and certain additional requirements concerning the weight of the paper.

In the code of the fertilizer industry provision is made for the reduction, if desired, of the number of grades of fertilizer to be marketed in a given zone.

An appendix to the code of the newsprint industry includes provisions dealing with weights of paper and variations therefrom.

The code of the hardwood distillation industry provides that:

> Where specifications for any products of the Industry have been approved by the Public Health Service of the United States, by state or local authorities and agreed to by the Code Authority on behalf of the Industry, no member of the Industry shall sell such products in violation of such specifications.

The furniture manufacturers' code lists an unfair trade practice "failure to furnish the buyer on request a description of products, including the principal materials of which they are made or other important attributes."

The code of the ladder manufacturers industry states it to be an unfair method of competition to deliver ladders which "do not reasonably conform with the standards of samples submitted or representations made prior to securing the order."

The code of the mopstick industry states that it shall be an unfair trade practice:

> To sell mopsticks which do not comply with the minimum standards as established for the Industry by the United States Bureau of Standards without labelling the product as not complying with such standards.

The code of the excelsior and excelsior products industry lists the following clause:

> *Failure to Mark or Brand.* No member of the industry shall sell or offer to sell a product of this industry without clearly stating and marking visibly the grade thereon.

"The substitution of inferior materials for those named in any contract without the purchaser's knowledge or permission, is unfair competition," according to the code of the luggage and fancy leather goods industry.

The salt producing industry code lists under unfair trade practices "The use of deceptively slack filled or deceptively shaped containers."

The branding as "second selection" is required in

the case of certain ware in the code of the chinaware and porcelain manufacturing industry.

The code of the retail jewelry trade contains definitions of certain jewels, and regulates concerning their use by the trade. It also has clauses concerning the stamping of jewelry to indicate the quality of the metal used. Comparable clauses are included in the article on standards in the code of the precious jewelry producing industry.

The umbrella code defines as an unfair method of competition:

> Failing to clearly mark on invoice the nature and quality of goods sold as seconds, outmoded merchandise, sample lines, or shopworn items. In no case shall a manufacturer classify and/or sell as seconds more than three per cent (3%) of his total production except that those manufacturers, who customarily manufacture umbrellas from old, second-hand, damaged, or otherwise imperfect umbrella covers, gores, or parts, shall be permitted to manufacture and sell umbrellas of this class, but no such umbrella shall be offered for sale, nor shall it be sold, unless there is firmly sewn on the selvage of the umbrella cover, next to the handle, a label plainly marked in English "made of second-hand materials." Materials of the label shall be different in color from the material used in the cover so that it will be clearly discernible.

Requirements relative to sanitary conditions of working quarters (some of which may affect the product) are included in the codes of the corset and brassiere, the coat and suit, and the men's clothing industries. The code of the underwear and allied products manufacturing industry states that no person shall sell merchandise at less than its "reasonable cost" except lines being closed out and defective goods known in the trade as "irregulars," "imperfects," or "seconds" which, when sold, shall be plainly and visibly marked on each garment and invoice.

The code of the hosiery industry contains these clauses:

> *Sale of merchandise other than first quality.* (*a*). The sale of irregulars or seconds in the packing of firsts, with the intent or effect of deceiving the purchaser or the ultimate consumer, is unfair trade practice.
>
> (*b*). All full-fashioned hosiery, and all seamless hosiery other than bundle goods, which is not first quality, shall be stamped or transferred either "Irregulars" or "Seconds" on the toe or sole of each hose, except that goods of a lower classification commonly known as thirds must be stamped or transferred "Thirds."
>
> (*c*). All stamping of this nature must be indelible. The words "Irregulars," "Seconds," or "Thirds," must be full-face type letters of not less than three-sixteenths of an inch in height.
>
> *Sale of mill runs.* To sell hosiery commonly known as "mill runs" containing hose which according to proper inspection as generally practiced by the industry would be classified as "Irregulars" or "Seconds," with the intent or effect of deceiving the ultimate consumer, is unfair trade practice.
>
> No material or content shall be stamped on any hose unless it represents at least five per cent (5%) of the hose by weight. When two or more contents exist, if any content is stamped on the hose, all contents constituting five per cent (5%) or more of the weight of the hose shall be stamped and in the order of major content.

The code of the handerchief industry includes the following:

> No member of the industry shall use any word, name, label, or brand indicating a place or country or origin or type of a handerchief, associated in the trade with a place or country or origin, except as to articles actually made in said place or country or origin.
>
> No member of the industry shall use the words "hand-rolled hem" to designate that class of handmade hem known as "whipped edge," which latter term means any hem or edge on which the thread used to fasten same is whipped or looped around and encloses the entire rolled edge.

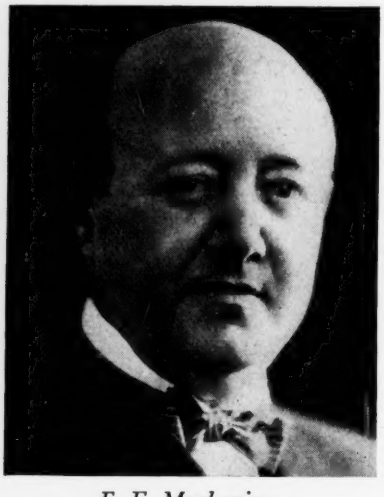
The code of the cleaning and dyeing industry lists under the powers and duties of the Code Authority "To adopt and prescribe minimum standards of quality for each of the several types of service performed by the cleaning and dyeing trade, and, to this end, to cooperate with a committee" of three made up of one active member of the National Association of Dyers and Cleaners, one person appointed by the American Home Economics Association, and one technician, preferably from the United States Bureau of Standards. The section on trade practices includes under unfair merchandising devices the clause:

> *Selling below standard quality.* The offering and/or sale of any cleaning and/or dyeing service to the public, below the minimum standards of quality for such prescribed by the Code Authority.

ASA Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting of the American Standards Association held in New York on December 12th, Howard Coonley, president of the Walworth Company, was re-elected president of the American Standards Association, and F. E. Moskovics, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Marmon-Herrington Company, was re-elected vice-president for the year 1934.

Howard Coonley



F. E. Moskovics

Mr. Coonley has been a member of the ASA Board of Directors since 1928, at which time he was appointed to represent the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He assumed office as president of the American Standards Association in January, 1933.

Mr. Moskovics represented the Society of Automotive Engineers on the Board of Directors from the time he was appointed in 1929 until he was elected vice-president of ASA in December, 1932.

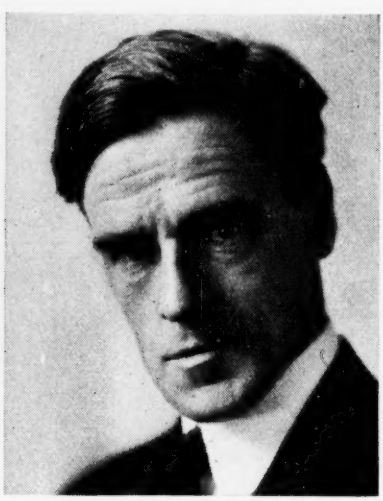
The Annual Meeting of the ASA Standards Council was also held on December 12th, and J. C. Irwin, valuation engineer, Boston and Albany Railroad, was elected chairman. F. M. Farmer, vice-president, Electrical Testing Laboratories, New York, was elected vice-chairman.

Mr. Irwin has been a member of the Standards Council representing the Engineering Division of the American Railway Association since December, 1930, and was elected vice-chairman in December, 1932, to serve during the year 1933.

Mr. Farmer is the only new officer elected. He has served on the Standards Council representing the American Society for Testing Materials since 1925. He has been chairman of the Board of Examination, and is a member of the Committee on Procedure, and of the Electrical Standards Commitee and the U. S. National Committee of the Electrotechnical Commission.

Mr. Farmer has been with the Electrical Testing Laboratories since 1903, at which time he became technical assistant and then engineer. He has been chief engineer of the Electrical Testing Laboratories since 1912 and vice-president since 1929.

James C. Irwin



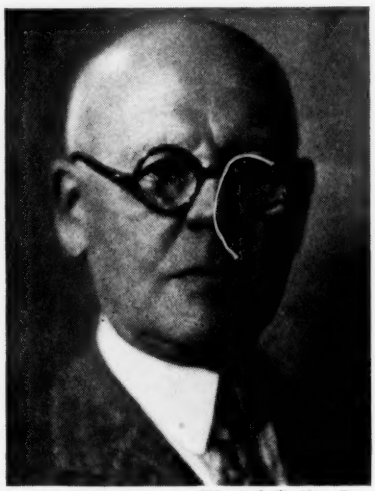
F. M. Farmer

He is author of *Electrical Measurements in Practice*, published in 1923, and is past president of the American Society for Testing Materials, and of the American Welding Society.

Mr. Farmer is chairman of the Sectional Committee on Electric Welding Apparatus (C52), and of the Sectional Committee on Specifications for Insulated Wires and Cables (Other Than Telephone and Telegraph) (C8). He is a member of the Sectional Committee on Insulators for Electric Power Lines (C29) representing the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and of the Sectional Committee on Definitions of Electrical Terms (C42) representing the American Welding Society.

Archibald Alston Stevenson

Archibald Alston Stevenson, until his retirement in 1929 vice president of the Standard Steel Works Company, and for two years presiding officer of the



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A. A. Stevenson

American Standards Association (then the American Engineering Standards Committee), died at his home at 201 Kent Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania, on December 15, after an illness of several months.

Mr. Stevenson was born April 10, 1862, at Allegheny, Pennsylvania. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois and was a pioneer in the commercial application of scientific methods in the heat treatment and metallurgy of iron and steel.

Representing the American Society for Testing Materials, Mr. Stevenson was a member of the joint committee which in 1917-18 planned and brought into being the original American Engineering Standards Committee (since 1928 the ASA), and had been a member of the Standards Council from the first. During his two terms as presiding officer, 1920 and 1921, the membership policy of the association was broadened to include organized groups as Member-Bodies; the safety code program was formally initiated; mining standardization was provided for; correlating and advisory committees were authorized; and other important steps in the building up of the structure of the ASA were successfully carried through.

A past president of the American Society for Testing Materials, the Association of American Steel Manufacturers, and of other organizations, Mr. Stevenson had played an influential part in a wide range of cooperative technical activities, for which he had unusual aptitude. His peculiar effectiveness and great influence in such work was due in no small measure to his profound and sympathetic understanding of human nature, and his ability to see and to provide for the human difficulties in the adjustments which are always necessary in such activities.

P. G. AGNEW.

Revised Simplified Practice Recommendation on Basic Paper Sizes

The revised Simplified Practice Recommendation R22-33 on the subject of paper (basic sheet sizes) is now available in printed form, according to an announcement of the Division of Simplified Practice of the National Bureau of Standards. Ten sheet sizes were added to this revised simplification program by the standing committee of the industry and the following specific and accurate headings were used: Bond and writing papers; Ledger; Index bristol; Book paper; and Cover paper. Copies of the recommendation may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or through the office of the American Standards Association, for five cents each.

New Quarters for the American Society for Testing Materials

The American Society for Testing Materials recently moved its headquarters from 1315 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, where it has been located for 14 years. The new address is 260 South Broad Street, Philadelphia.

Wider Recognition of Need for Standards Marks Important Year for ASA

by

Cloyd M. Chapman

ASA activities reflect effects of NRA program on general interest in standardization; reorganization within ASA needed to handle new work

The following paper includes the report prepared for presentation before the Annual Meeting by Mr. Chapman, retiring chairman of the Standards Council, and also his report as chairman of the special committee on reorganization, working under the Joint Administrative Committee of the Board of Directors and Standards Council.

In reviewing the accomplishments of the ASA during the year 1933, I do not deem it essential that I take up your time in presenting statistics and details to show the progress that has been made in the approval of standards and the initiation of new standards. Such information is important as an index to the types and variety of work which industry is interested in having the ASA carry on and to the support which industry is giving to the work and to the activities of the various sectional committees. It seems to me that there are far more significant indications of the nature and extent of the progress which is being made. It is my purpose, therefore, to discuss these developments and depend upon the ASA staff to furnish you with the statistical data.

It is a year since the Standards Council last met. This does not mean that the work of the Council has not proceeded in the meantime with promptness and efficiency. The wisdom of the Council in setting up advisory and correlating committees and boards to handle problems relating to the initiation and scope of projects, the personnel of committees, and the approval of standards has been very evident. The Council has been able to carry on its activities through the assistance of these advisory groups with as great efficiency as it would if it had convened several times for the purpose of giving consideration to these questions. In fact, the efficiency with which these special committees have operated has made the task of your special committee on reorganization a relatively simple one by indicating the basic principle to be followed in reorganizing. Their results so far have given direct evidence of the value of concentrating the work in particular fields of endeavor in the hands of special groups who are in a position to give expert thought and deliberation to the special problems coming before them and has definitely indicated to the Special Committee that an expansion of the advisory committee method of carrying on our task is essential to the smooth working of the entire organization if the ASA is to function in the fields of industry which have been suggested to it.

While it is true that the work of the advisory committees has been performed largely by correspondence, nevertheless, it has been necessary for the individual members to devote much time and thought to the questions placed before the committees and it is fitting that I should express, on behalf of the Council, our high appreciation of their activities.

The year 1933 has brought considerable evidence that the standardization movement is growing in importance and receiving greater recognition from many groups. This has come about in part through the promotional activities of the ASA itself. The broadened nature of the projects which are coming in has influenced additional groups to participate in the work, and the carrying forward of the programs of the National Recovery Administration has helped to make industry conscious of the value of national standards in the conduct of their business.

The nature of the new projects which have been presented to the ASA for consideration is especially significant. For example, the project on Shrinkage of Woven Cotton Fabrics marks another step in broadening the activities of the ASA. The submittal of this project and the preliminary conference to discuss the initiation and scope and methods of carrying on the work have brought the ASA forcibly to the attention of new groups which previously were not aware that the ASA could serve their particular field of activity. These organizations have a greater appreciation of the importance of national standards in the conduct of their normal industrial operations and will undoubtedly give consideration to ways and means of using the facilities of the ASA in connection with other standardization activities.

Requests have been received for prompt action on

standards submitted to the ASA for approval in order that they may be used in connection with codes of fair competition developed under the NRA program. This indicates that these standards have been definitely put into use by the industries concerned and have become a part of the everyday operations of the organizations within the industry.

Another significant development concerns the increasing participation in ASA work by trade association managements. The importance of the trade association in the field of development of national standards is constantly growing. The executives of the associations have a growing appreciation of the importance of standards to the industry which they represent. They are, therefore, watching the national standardization movement more closely than in the past. They are insisting upon greater participation by their associations in individual projects and are keeping their respective members in closer touch with the important developments in the movement which vitally affect their operations. This has given very considerable impetus to the work.

All of these considerations have served, particularly during the past year, to permit individual technical committees to proceed more promptly with the development of their projects and to iron out difficulties which have been obstructing the development of standards acceptable to all interested groups. Several of the standards approved by the ASA during the past year bear witness to this fact. The completion of the Standards for Rotating Electrical Machinery indicates the straightening out of many difficulties—the bringing about of a meeting of minds which had seemed impossible to secure during the many years this project has been in the course of development.

Other projects which have been lying dormant for long periods of time have started forward and give definite promise of coming to completion shortly. This is true of several of the safety codes which have been on the books since the safety code program was initiated and which, because of divergent viewpoints, and the unwillingness of certain organizations to fully cooperate in the development of the project, had brought about an almost complete stagnation of the activities of the committees. The needs of the present situation in industry and the more complete understanding of the necessity for cooperation between groups have made it possible for these committees to be reorganized, and new sponsorships secured. These sectional committees now give tangible evidence of progress in the development of their respective projects.

These facts should give encouragement to those who are engaged in the work of the American Standards Association, to those who believe in its aims, and to those who have striven to have the organization recognized as the national agency to which should be referred all problems in the development of American Standards.

Plan of reorganization proposed by Special Committee

In view of the tremendous task which the development of the new and broader program presents to the ASA and the new responsibilities which now confront us, it has become evident that we must enlarge the base upon which our work is organized.

At the present time there are standards in process of development under the procedure of the American Standards Association which four or five years ago would have been considered entirely outside the scope of our interest, and it is obvious that if we are to be the one national standardization organization, our program must be broad enough to include standards in every industrial field.

To provide for meeting the new responsibilities, the Board of Directors and the Standards Council several months ago set up a special committee to study the problem of expansion. Meetings of this special committee have been held, and views have been exchanged between the members by correspondence.

The committee now has under consideration a scheme of organization much the same as that which exists at the present time, including a main body corresponding to the present Standards Council, and a group of correlating committees each of which would cover specific divisions of industry just as the existing correlating and advisory committees do. In addition to the industries already represented, any other branch of industry which requires standards would be included. Many of these cannot be adequately taken care of under our present set-up, but we can create the necessary organization and procedure under which such advisory and correlating committees can be developed as needed. In order to accomplish this the committee is considering the organization of a series of divisions of industry—including, for example, mining, metallurgy, and petroleum; textiles; lumber and wood products; ceramics and allied materials; electrical; chemical; mechanical; metals; paper and pulp products; building and general construction; food; safety codes. Each of these divisions would be organized as the industry became affiliated to a degree enabling it to take over the direction of its own standardization affairs and would have its own group of representatives.

The Electrical Standards Committee may well

serve as a model. Electrical activities are now centered in that committee. The electrical industry is now able to carry on its standardization work almost autonomously. Under the program being considered by the committee, each of the new divisions would also work practically autonomously in handling its own problems, governed by a supervising body—the Council. This Council might not necessarily be an enlargement of the present Standards Council, but might rather be a body of judges, perhaps about 25, which would have judicial supervision of the divisions of industry. They would prescribe procedure, modify the rules as necessary, pass upon adequacy of representation, upon sponsorships, settle disputes, and see that the principles upon which we are working are being scrupulously followed. It would be the primary duty of this body to see that proper procedure is followed in arriving at a standard.

The special committee is not prepared at present to make a complete report. Changes in conditions are taking place too rapidly. We cannot set up advisory or correlating committees with one or two representatives of an industry. The industries must become actively interested and be adequately represented in ASA before we can turn over to them the work of standardization in their own particular fields. Before taking any definite action we must bring in every responsible standards-making body in these industry groups; otherwise we could not handle their problems and be sure that they were adequately represented.

The committee is anticipating that the work of the staff will grow in proportion to the additional fields we cover, and our finances must be put on a basis that will enable us to take care of this expansion. We must, therefore, grow in two directions—in broader representation and in additional financial resources.

How far we should go in the broadening of the base of our work it is difficult to say. What organizations, what agencies should have a part? What constitutes sufficient interest to entitle an organization to share in the responsibility for setting up American Standards in their field? We must not, of course, exclude any important element of society. We cannot say that this is a task for the manufacturers or for the consumers. We must serve the whole country. No one must be forgotten.

The speed with which this special committee can prepare its recommendations depends largely upon the working out of a program of cooperation with the Bureau of Standards. The details of that program will to a large degree govern the expansion of our organization, and also the enlargement of our staff to handle this expansion.

ASA Administrative Set-Up Discussed by Standards Council

A proposed new administrative set-up for the American Standards Association, which would provide for the handling of all projects through industry committees was discussed at length at the December 12th meeting of the Standards Council.

In opening the discussion, Cloyd M. Chapman, chairman, stated that if the plan for the setting up of industry committees to serve as correlating and advisory boards, and to approve standards in their respective fields were adopted, the great number of industrial groups in the ASA organization would make it impossible for the Standards Council to approve every standard submitted. The Council would, therefore, necessarily become a supreme court to which minority objections and questions of a controversial nature arising within the proposed industrial committees could be referred.

Charles Rufus Harte, member of the Council representing the American Transit Association, suggested that if industrial divisions are set up they should be as inclusive as possible, in order that no controversy as to jurisdiction may arise from the breaking down of an industry into groups too small for efficient functioning. He used as examples the possible creation of a group on ceramics and also one on glass, which might conceivably cause confusion. He suggested that the present make-up of the Electrical Standards Committee might serve as a model, since related groups are included in that Committee even though their interests in some respects are widely divergent.

F. M. Farmer, alternate representative of the American Society for Testing Materials, stated his belief that standardization in other industries would lend itself to the same sort of organization as that which the electrical industry has found desirable, and

that the ASA should proceed on this basis. The American Standards Association has recognized for some time that industry committees, such as the Electrical Standards Committee, constitute the preferable method of organization for handling standardization matters.

W. J. Serrill, representative of the American Gas Association, asked if he had understood correctly that the proposed industry committees would be given the right to vote on the final approval of standards, and that such approvals would not be submitted to the Standards Council except where controversy had arisen within the industry committee. If this understanding was correct it was a radical departure, he said, which should receive careful consideration.

The chairman replied that this understanding was correct. He asked the secretary of the American Standards Association whether a standard submitted to Standards Council for approval had ever been refused approval when no controversy had developed before its submittal. The secretary said that he could not remember any such case. Although in the past 15 years two standards have been rejected by the Council, in both cases controversy had arisen over the proposed standard before its submittal to Standards Council.

In the course of the meeting, the question of consumer standards entered the discussion when S. L. Nicholson, representative of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, said that he felt that manufacturers of consumer goods, who could assist in bringing about proper standards in this field, should be represented in the organization. He believes that such representation in each industrial division would help to straighten out the consumers' relation to each group; it would protect the manufacturers of consumer goods, and would also protect the public. We should certainly take into account the consumers' interest, Mr. Nicholson said. In the electrical manufacturing business, however, the manufacturer is far ahead of the consumer and does not want to be held down to a standard which would prevent his growth in the future.

His complaint against the ASA, he said, is that it not only does not represent manufacturers of consumer goods, but also that it does not represent much more than the engineering end of the entire manufacturing game. The ASA needs representatives of consumer goods manufacturers, he said, but these manufacturers never have realized that they need standards satisfactory to the consumer and to the general public. He suggested that under the NRA interest on the part of manufacturers in standards which would be satisfactory to the consumer might be forced.

Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, representative of the Bureau of Standards, pointed out that all ASA standards are, in a sense, consumer standards. For example, he said, specifications for steel are used in the manufacture of steel, and the steel in turn is sold to an automobile manufacturer. He feels, however, he said, that some provision should be made for the man or woman who knows nothing about specifications, such as the over-the-counter consumer. Such consumers, he believes, would like to see on the goods they purchase a statement from some recognized authority to the effect that these goods correspond to a recognized standard. They do not want curtailment of the line of goods they are purchasing, but they would like to have some technical help in making their selections from the variety of goods presented.

A. R. Small, representative of the Fire Protection Group, said that the difficulties faced by the American Standards Association at the present time seem to him to be similar to those which arose when the ASA, then the American Engineering Standards Committee, was first organized. One of the first things done by the AESC was to organize the Safety Code Correlating Committee to take care of a specialized division of standardization. Later, as the work developed, the Mining Standardization Correlating Committee and the Electrical Standards Committee were organized.

The problem of development and expansion now confronting the American Standards Association, Mr. Small said, is analogous to that which faced the original 13 states of the Union. These states were bound together because of the similarity of their interests and environment along the East coast. The territory on their Western border was an unexplored hinterland. In due time, new groups, which it was found had closely related or identical interests, were formed outside the original 13 states. Gradually these were brought into the Union, first as territorial units and later as autonomous parts of the Union. Mr. Small suggested that these new groups, such as the consumer groups, which are found to have a common interest in the standardization movement, might be brought in through some similar method, and their duties and powers be gradually increased as they become better organized and more efficient in the carrying on of their particular standardization activities.

The chairman referred all comments and suggestions to the committee on reorganization for consideration.

Summary of ASA Activities for the Year 1933

The following tabulation of information on ASA activities during 1933 was presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Standards Association, December 12, 1933.

The year 1933 has been an eventful one for the American Standards Association. It is characterized by growth in many directions.

Standards approved—Since the last Board meeting 62 standards have been approved, 31 of which were entirely new projects, 29 were revisions, and two were advances to American Standards. The table below shows the distribution of these in the various classifications.

Group	New	Revisions
A. Civil Engineering	6	2
B. Mechanical Engineering	3	4
C. Electrical Engineering	5	3
E. Transportation	0	7
G. Ferrous Metallurgy	0	2
K. Chemical	0	3
M. Mining	0	1
X.Z. Miscellaneous	17	7
	31	29

(Two additional in the Miscellaneous group were advanced to American Standards.)

New projects—During the year 15 new projects were initiated—five under Civil Engineering, two under Textile, one under Mechanical, one under Electrical, two under Non-Ferrous Metallurgy, and four in the Miscellaneous group.

Membership service policies—Early in 1933 a new policy regarding services to Members was established. This was described in detail on page 38 of the February issue of the monthly publication. It provides a certain number of free subscriptions to INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION based on the amount of annual dues; free copies of each newly approved standard to members paying $100.00 a year or more; a complete set of free standards to members paying $500.00 a year or more; and a discount of 20 per cent on the purchase of any quantity of approved standards. Since this policy was put in operation, practically all Company Members are taking advantage of the free standards offered and most members have filled up their quotas of free subscriptions to INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION. It is believed that this policy has helped greatly to keep members informed of developments in standardization and that it also has been very helpful in introducing standards into practice.

New class of membership—During the year a new class of membership was set up to apply to organizations or associations that are on the approved Member-Body prospect list but who cannot afford under present circumstances to maintain a representative on the Standards Council. It is now possible for such organizations to affiliate with the ASA as Associate Members and to receive everything that a Member-Body gets except representation on the Standards Council and the privilege of voting on letter ballots. The American Hospital Association will be the first organization to come in under this classification on January 1, 1934.

Member-Bodies—During the year, 98 organizations were added to the approved Member-Body prospect list bringing the total to approximately 200. Of the total group, 57 organizations were invited to membership, a complete outline of the extent of interest of the particular organization accompanying the letter of invitation. While none of these have as yet come in as Member-Bodies, a number of them have given it serious consideration and have indicated that as soon as conditions are better they wish to participate more actively in American Standards Association work.

American Society for Testing Materials Will Hold Regional Meeting

The American Society for Testing Materials has just announced that the Regional Meeting for 1934 will be held in the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D. C., on March 7, in conjunction with the annual group meetings of A.S.T.M. committees to be held from March 5 to 9 inclusive. A Symposium on Outdoor Weathering of Metals and Metallic Coatings, sponsored jointly by A.S.T.M. Committees A-5 on Corrosion of Iron and Steel and B-3 on Corrosion of Non-Ferrous Metals and Alloys will be the technical feature of the Regional Meeting.

The A.S.T.M. has also announced that the Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Hotels in Atlantic City from June 25 to 29 inclusive.

Division of Specifications

by

A. S. McAllister, *Chief*
Division of Specifications,
National Bureau of Standards

Services of the Division to Federal, State, county, and municipal purchasing agencies and to other consumers

This article is the last in the series describing the activities and accomplishments of the Commercial Standardization Group of the National Bureau of Standards. Part of the work of the other divisions of the Group, but not including the Division of Specifications, is now being carried on by the ASA and the Bureau of Standards under a cooperative arrangement between the two organizations.

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In an article relating to the Commercial Standardization Services of the Bureau of Standards, which appeared in the August, 1933, issue of this publication, there was included a brief outline of the history and accomplishments of the Division of Specifications. Below are presented certain details concerning the services of the Division to the makers and users of specifications, without duplicating the information contained in the earlier article.

Functions

The chief function of the Division of Specifications of the National Bureau of Standards relates to facilitating the use and unification of specifications with special reference to the needs of agencies making their purchases out of tax monies.

In carrying out its program it cooperates with technical societies, trade associations, and other organizations in ascertaining their standardization and specifications-making activities and bringing to their attention the work being done by the Bureau of Standards. It also includes the offering of such assistance as can be rendered in bringing about a change from the prevalent hit-or-miss method of specifying, manufacturing, and testing to a logical method of formulating specifications, manufacturing in conformity therewith, and testing to insure or guarantee compliance therewith. Cooperation with Federal, State, county, and municipal governments includes the bringing of Federal specifications and commercial standards to the attention of the maximum number of producers and the maximum number of users of commodities complying with these specifications and standards, thereby assisting in broadening the field of supply.

The Division of Specifications also cooperates with producers, distributors, and consumers of commodities which are, or should be, covered by nationally recognized specifications.

Cooperation with the producers involves the compilation of lists of manufacturers who have expressed their willingness to certify to purchasers, upon request, that material supplied by them on contracts based on certain Federal specifications or commercial standards comply with the requirements thereof. Cooperation with distributors involves bringing to their attention the benefits to be derived by them as both buyers and sellers from handling nationally specified, certified, and labeled commodities. Contacts are also established with representatives of "over-the-counter" buyers in order to pass along to them some of the benefits derived by the contract buyer from using nationally recognized specifications under the certification plan, manufacturers of certain lines of staple goods being encouraged to identify, by suitable labels, commodities which they are willing to guarantee to be in compliance with the above-mentioned specifications and standards.

The Division also cooperates with testing and research laboratories. To facilitate the use of specifications by purchasers not equipped to make commodity acceptance tests, there has been compiled and published, in three editions, a directory of the commercial testing and college research laboratories throughout the country. There has also been compiled by the Division of Specifications, under the authority of the Chief Coordinator, a classified directory of the laboratories of the Federal Government available for the testing of supplies and materials

for the purchasing officers of the various Government departments.

The work of compiling, keeping up to date, and distributing complete lists of commercial testing and college research laboratories has proved of benefit not only to these laboratories, but also to both the manufacturers and users of commodities purchased under specifications. The existence of this thoroughly classified list of testing laboratories is proving beneficial in promoting the use of specifications; it strengthens greatly what would otherwise be the weakest link in the purchasing chain, and it makes truly effective both the certification and the labeling plans.

Surveys

Below are sketched briefly the surveys which have been made by the Division of Specifications.

1. Survey of standards and specifications formulated by American trade associations and technical societies having national recognition, or other organizations which speak with the authority of the Federal government as a whole. Material collected as a result of the survey has been utilized in the preparation of manuscripts for the National Directory of Commodity Specifications and the several volumes of the Encyclopedia of Specifications.

2. Survey of commodity standardization activities of American technical societies, trade associations, and consumer groups to determine the extent to which they have formulated standards and specifications and have developed plans for encouraging manufacturers to produce commodities conforming to certain nationally recognized standards and specifications, and for enabling the buyer to identify goods complying with specification requirements. The material compiled in this survey has been utilized annually in several chapters in the *Standards Yearbook* and in other publications.

3. Survey of all American manufacturers in more than 100 industrial fields to determine which of them are equipped and willing to build commodities in accordance with about 450 Federal specifications and 40 commercial standards. The purpose of this survey is to compile lists of manufacturers who are desirous of supplying material guaranteed to comply with certain Federal specifications and commercial standards and willing to certify to purchasers, upon request, that material so supplied complies with the requirements and tests thereof. The 387 lists which have been distributed contain about 18,000 separate requests for listing, from 8,000 separate firms. Copies have been sent to all important Governmental agencies—Federal, State, county, and municipal—who are making purchases out of monies collected from the public in the form of taxes.

4. Survey of all known commercial testing and college research laboratories throughout the country for the purpose of determining their facilities and equipment for making tests of various kinds of commodities based on certain definite standards and specifications. The information collected from questionnaires submitted to these laboratories has been compiled, published, and distributed to various Governmental agencies throughout the country who are neither prepared nor equipped to conduct tests of their own of commodities purchased on specifications.

5. Survey of State, county, and municipal purchasing and standardizing agencies for the purpose of determining the methods employed by these agencies in the purchase, testing, and inspection of commodities used by these agencies; also of ascertaining to what extent use is made of specifications on which to base contracts for purchases. With this information at hand, the Division of Specifications was able to ascertain which of the agencies should be contacted in suggesting certain recommendations concerning the improvement of their purchasing methods and also in bringing to their attention the use of Federal specifications and commercial standards and lists of "willing-to-certify" manufacturers.

6. Survey of methods of purchasing equipment by State Highway Departments, conducted by the Division of Specifications, in cooperation with the American Road Builders' Association. The purpose of this survey was to obtain information as to the methods employed by the State Highway Departments in the purchase of materials, supplies, and equipment, as a basis for the elimination of unsound policies in the purchase of equipment, preparation of suitable legislation, and encouragement of the standardization of purchasing methods along practical and efficient lines, including the formulation and adoption of standards and specifications and methods of procedure.

7. Surveys have been made of the commodity specifications of the Philadelphia School Board and of the City of New York for the purpose of assisting the purchasing agencies in bringing these specifications into harmony with good commercial practice. Approximately 1800 New York City specifications were recently compared with those issued by national technical societies and trade associations and agencies of the Federal Government, and recommendations were made for their improvement.

Certification and labeling plans

In cooperation with Governmental specifications-using agencies—Federal, State, county, and municipal—with other consumers, and with producers and distributors, the Federal specifications and approved commercial standards are brought to the attention of the maximum number of producers and the maximum number of users of commodities covered by these specifications and standards, through the medium of the "certification plan" and the self-identifying, quality-guaranteeing labeling plan, outlined below.

To assist in broadening the field of supply of commodities purchased under Federal specifications and expanding the mass-production, mass-distribution, and mass-consumption of these commodities, the Division of Specifications has compiled complete lists of manufacturers desirous of accepting contracts based on certain of these specifications and willing to certify to purchasers, upon request, that the commodities delivered under these contracts comply with the requirements and tests of the specifications.

Among the aims and objects of the so-called certification plan are the following:

(*a*). To make thoroughly effective the benefits to be derived by producers and consumers from the well-known economies incident to mass-production, mass-distribution, and mass-consumption.

(*b*). To encourage the producers to manufacture staple commodities to comply with nationally recognized commodity specifications.

(*c*). To assist the producers in expanding their markets for staple commodities complying with nationally recognized specifications.

(*d*). To facilitate and expand the use of nationally recognized commodity specifications by large-quantity and medium-quantity buyers.

(*e*). To determine the commercial acceptibility of certain nationally recognized specifications.

(*f*). To aid in unifying the specifications used throughout the country.

(*g*). To broaden the field of supply of products conforming to nationally recognized specifications.

In the accompanying table there is set forth a statistical summary of firms that have filed with the Bureau of Standards formal signed requests to be listed as sources of supply of commodities guaranteed by them to comply with the requirements of 349 Federal specifications and 38 commercial standards.

Group symbol	*Commodity groups*	*Total number of—*		
		Specifications	*Listings*	*Firms*
C	Animal products	2	11	11
H	Brooms and brushes	48	945	179
J	Cable and wire	1	24	24
N	Cereal and products	1	24	24
O	Chemicals	6	104	70
P	Cleaning and polishing materials	21	648	212
R	Coal-tar and products	6	107	27
T	Cordage	6	95	49
U	Drugs and medicines	1	17	17
W	Electric-apparatus	8	89	75
AA	Furniture	2	5	4
DD	Glass and glassware	2	55	55
FF	Hardware	4	70	67
GG	Instruments	4	39	38
HH	Insulating materials	31	453	248
JJ	Knit goods, netting, and webbing	1	5	5
KK	Leather and leather goods	4	103	81
MM	Lumber and timber	2	6,282	3,719
OO	Machinery	1	40	40
QQ	Metals	32	1,221	327
RR	Metal products	2	22	22
SS	Minerals and products (non-metallic)	28	1,530	257
TT	Paints, pigments, varnishes, and products	30	3,032	331
UU	Paper and products	28	557	126
VV	Petroleum and products	1	16	16
WW	Pipe, pipe-fittings, plumbing-fixtures, tubes, and tubing (metallic)	14	188	157
ZZ	Rubber and rubber goods	2	13	13
AAA	Scales	2	44	44
CCC	Textiles (yardage)	20	275	154
DDD	Textile products	22	465	214
GGG	Tools	8	67	27
JJJ	Vegetable products	4	131	100
LLL	Wood products	5	71	69
CS	Commercial standards	38	1,309	1,172
	Total	387	18,057	7,974

TABLE 1

At the suggestion of the Chief Coordinator the lists of willing-to-certify manufacturers have been distributed to the purchasing agencies of all Federal Government departments and establishments; at the suggestion of the director of the National Municipal League and the officers of several associations representing State and institutional purchasers, they have been distributed to about 25,000 additional public purchasers for all of the states, counties, and cities throughout the country, and all municipalities having the commission form of government. They have also been distributed to more than 2500 purchasers

for colleges, hospitals, and other public institutions.

In accordance with the self-identifying, quality-guaranteeing labeling plan, a firm desiring to bring effectively to the attention of the non-contract or "over-the-counter" buyers, at the time of making a purchase, commodities guaranteed to comply with the requirements of certain nationally recognized specifications, places on the individual commodities or their containers labels which definitely identify both the specification and the manufacturer or the trade association which holds itself responsible for the guarantee.

Labeling plans, in one form of another, have been in operation for many years, and identifying labels (some carrying guarantees) are being advocated by about 100 national technical societies and trade associations, many of whom maintain inspectors for making their labels effective.

Our investigations have revealed the fact that many firms manufacturing goods on a mass-production basis are willing to make use of quality-guaranteeing labels provided they can be assured of a sufficient demand for goods thus labeled.

As viewed from the standpoint of the contract-buyer, one of the most burdensome features of the specification method of purchasing resides in the necessity for testing the commodities upon delivery. The certification plan reduces this burden very materially in connection with commodities complying with nationally recognized specifications, while the self-identifying, quality-guaranteeing labeling plan practically eliminates the need for testing by the over-the-counter buyer in connection with many mass-production commodities.

The broadening of the use of the certification and labeling plans does not imply a lessening of the need for testing service. As a matter of fact, it necessitates the increasing use of the services of testing laboratories by manufacturers, distributors, and consumers. Expansion of the certification plan means that more manufacturers than formerly need testing and inspection services upon which to base their certificates, whether issued to individual purchasers or distributed as labels on the goods certified. Moreover, to the extent that the application of the certification plan results in the use of specifications by purchasers not hitherto buying on specifications it increases the demand for testing services on behalf of the buyers. In any event, numerous purchasers, both those buying for their own consumption and those buying for resale to others, now resort to such tests as they consider necessary or desirable to satisfy themselves that the commodities do actually comply with the specification requirements. It seems evident, therefore, that the widespread application of the certification and labeling plans must result in a greatly increased need for testing service by producers, distributors, and consumers.

It is not to be assumed that all trade associations and all manufacturers are enthusiastically advocating the certification plan. For various reasons, certain manufacturers would prefer not to have the certification plan or any other specification method of buying applied to commodities sold by them. It is noteworthy in this connection that practically all of these same manufacturers insist that the materials purchased by them comply with rigid specifications—and some even use the certification plan itself. The fact is that in every case there has been a considerable number of thoroughly responsible manufacturers anxious to have their names listed among the "willing-to-certify" manufacturers of commodities covered by Federal specifications and commercial standards.

The reception given to the certification plan by many responsible manufacturers and representative trade associations has been very encouraging. It is being widely utilized by "public purchasers," that is, purchasers for the Federal, State, and municipal governments who are spending the money collected from the public in the form of taxes. It is also being welcomed by other large purchasers, whose requirements are of such magnitude as to justify the use of specifications.

The convenience of buying specification-made goods in relatively small quantities, without necessitating the expenditure of too much money for commodity-acceptance testing, is the feature of the labeling plan which causes it to be particularly advantageous for buyers making purchases out of tax monies. The great value to the ultimate consumer of self-identifying, quality-guaranteeing labels based on nationally recognized specifications in over-the-counter trade is being widely appreciated.

Many of the specifications to which the certification plan has been, or will be, applied cover commodities of much interest to housekeepers. Although it is not expected that the housekeeper will actually buy commodities on individual specifications, some day she may voluntarily confine her purchases of certain kinds of commodities to those known to be manufactured to comply with certain nationally recognized specifications. Perhaps she may even now be induced to examine critically such of these commodities as she does purchase to determine whether or not they are as represented and will comply with her own requirements—to purchase on the basis of real quality and ability to meet service requirements rather than on the basis of superficial appearance or of the numerous kinds of sales arguments.

Although the so-called certification plan can well be applied to all kinds of commodities for which there are nationally recognized specifications and which are sold in relatively large quantities upon contracts based on these specifications, the field of the labeling plan is limited to what is often called "bulk staple merchandise." The latter should not be applied to commodities handled only in the contract trade or to specialties or novelties.

Experience in the use of self-identifying, quality-guaranteeing labels and correspondence relating thereto indicate strongly that it is possible to educate the public to look for quality labels, especially that portion of the public which can be reached through such organizations as the American Home Economics Association, General Federation of Women's Clubs, better business bureaus, and chambers of commerce. Many officers and members of these organizations have already expressed their interest in and approval of labeling of commodities for the benefit of the "over-the-counter" purchasers, as have also quite a number of officers of educational institutions.

There are several ways in which industry, through representative trade associations and similar organizations, is becoming very active in the certification plan for promoting the use of nationally recognized specifications and the labeling system for extending the benefits to small-quantity purchasers and "over-the-counter" buyers.

(*a*). First of all is publicity by means of which the industry is being made acquainted with the real significance of the undertaking and shown the benefits to be derived from the plan.

(*b*). Second, but of no less importance than the first, is thorough cooperation in the preparation of specifications that can most properly be referred to as nationally recognized.

(*c*). Next is cooperation in the plan by inducing all of the members of the association to have their names included in the list of manufacturers willing to certify to the purchaser that the commodities supplied by them under nationally recognized specifications have been tested and found to comply with these specifications.

(*d*). Trade associations representing either dealers or manufacturers reaching consumers through retailers are helpful in showing the dealers and retailers how they (as both purchasers and sellers) benefit from the plan, especially when accompanied by an effective labeling system.

(*e*). A final step already taken by certain associations is making sure that the members are keeping faith so far as certification and labeling are concerned.

Information concerning the separate lists of sources of supply is set forth in the index of Federal specifications in the Federal Standard Stock Catalogue, utilized by all Federal purchasing agencies and to an ever-increasing extent by other progressive tax-supported purchasing agencies.

Although conducted always in the interest of the Federal Government purchasing agencies, the services and findings of the Division are proving financially beneficial to other tax-supported agencies. Reports received from State, county, and municipal purchasing agencies show that enormous savings have been made through standardization of their specifications and truly competitive buying. Effective utilization of the Division's surveys of Federal Government and other nationally recognized specifications, and of the lists of sources of supply of commodities certified to comply with Federal Government requirements, is being made by the progressive State and county governments and by the governments of several cities.

Several of the newly created Federal agencies, such as the Federal Coordinator of Transportation, Public Works Administration, and the Tennessee Valley Authority are making effective use of both the lists of "sources of supply" and the Directory and Encyclopedia of Specifications.

In the three volumes of the Encyclopedia thus far published are reproduced the actual text of all nationally recognized standards and specifications in the wood-using industries, for non-metallic minerals and their products, and for metals and metal products. These volumes contain practically all of the specifications for building materials which have been adopted by national trade associations and technical societies, and by those agencies which speak with the authority of the Federal Government as a whole.

In the National Directory of Commodity Specifications are listed and briefly described not only the specifications reproduced in the above-noted three volumes of the Encyclopedia, but also all commodity specifications formulated by nationally recognized agencies in America.

In collecting source material for the Directory and Encyclopedia, the Division compiled a complete library of nationally recognized commodity specifications—the only library of its kind in America. These specifications have been completely indexed on a commodity basis, and most of them have been intercompared critically. The specifications library

is being used continuously and effectively in reviewing all of the proposed Codes of Fair Competition to ascertain if proper references have been made therein to dimensional standards and quality specifications to safeguard the consumers' interests.

Up to and including December 29, there had been examined by the Division of Specifications a total of 463 proposed Codes of Fair Competition, for 251 of which there were located specifications to which 1130 references might well be made. These specifications were sponsored or formulated by 129 separate agencies, as indicated in the accompanying table.

Sponsoring Agencies	*Number of References*
National Bureau of Standards	209
Simplified Practice Recommendations	134
Commercial Standards	53
Safety Codes	22
Federal Specifications Board	290
Federal Trade Commission	6
Interstate Commerce Commission	4
American Marine Standards Committee	3
Department of Agriculture	2
Bureau of Agricultural Economics	1
Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce	1
Bureau of Public Roads	1
Joint Committee on Printing of the U. S. Congress	1
Steamboat Inspection Service	1
U. S. Navy	1
American Society for Testing Materials (205+)	189
American Standards Association	103
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	37
American Gas Association	26
American Association of State Highway Officials	15
Society of Automotive Engineers	13
American Foundrymen's Association	8
American Railway Association	8
International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions	8
Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry	8
Underwriters' Laboratories	8
National Safety Council	6
National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters	6
National Fire Protection Association	6
American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers	5
Heating & Piping Contractors National Association	5
Manufacturers Standardization Society of the Valve and Fittings Industry	5
National Association of Waste Materials Dealers	5
National Board of Fire Underwriters	5
American Institute of Architects	4
American Institute of Electrical Engineers	4
National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers	4
National Machine Tool Builders Association	4
U. S. Pharmacopoeia	4
American Bureau of Shipping	3
American Gear Manufacturers Association	3
American Leather Chemists Association	3
American Mining Congress	3
American Railway Engineering Association	3
American Railway Association, Operating Division	3
American Transit Association	3
American Water Works Association	3
Anthracite Institute	3
National Founders' Association	3
Amateur Billiard Association of America	2
Amateur Bowling Congress	2
American Ceramic Society	2
American Concrete Institute	2
American Railway Association, Signal Section	2
American Society of Agricultural Engineers	2
American Society of Civil Engineers	2
Associated General Contractors of America	2
Electric Hoist Manufacturers Association	2
Plumbago Crucible Association	2
Tire and Rim Association	2
Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce	1
American Amateur Athletic Union of the U. S.	1
American Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages	1
American Concrete Pipe Association	1
American Drop Forging Institute	1
American Institute of Steel Construction	1
American Paint & Varnish Manufacturers Association	1
American Public Health Association	1
American Railway Association, Engineering Division	1
American Society of Agricultural Chemists	1
American Society of Bakery Engineers	1
American Society for Municipal Improvements	1
American Society of Refrigerating Engineers	1
American Society of Safety Engineers	1
Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies	1
Associated Manufacturers of Water Purifying Equipment	1
Associated Tile Manufacturers	1
Association of Edison Illuminating Companies	1
Association of Government Officials of the U. S. and Canada	1
Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers	1
Association of Manufacturers of Chilled Car Wheels	1
Association of Official Agricultural Chemists	1
California Redwood Association	1
Concrete Masonry Association	1
Consolidated Freight Classification Committee	1
Diamond Core Drill Manufacturers Association	1
Diesel Engine Manufacturers Association	1
Fire Protection Group	1
Glass Container Association	1
Glycerine Producers' Association	1
Grinding Wheel Manufacturers Association	1
Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia	1
Illuminating Engineering Society	1
Institute of Boiler and Radiator Manufacturers	1
International Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers	1
International Association of Milk Dealers	1
Joint Concrete Culvert Pipe Committee	1
Laundryowners National Association	1
Machinery Builders Society	1
Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association	1
Mirror Manufacturers Association	1
National Association of Fan Manufacturers	1
National Association of Furniture Manufacturers	1
National Association of Insecticide and Disinfectant Manufacturers	1
National Association of Musical Merchandise Manufacturers	1
National Association of Mutual Casualty Companies	1
National Association of Paint Manufacturers	1
National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues	1
National Association of Sheet Metal Contractors	1
National Association of Wool Manufacturers	1
National Better Business Bureau	1
National Building Granite Quarriers Association	1
National Collegiate Athletic Association	1
National Electric Light Association	1
National Hair and Jute Association	1
National Oak Flooring Manufacturers Association	1
National Paint, Oil, and Varnish Association	1
National Warm Air Heating Association	1
New England Water Works Association	1
Northern Hemlock and Hardwood Manufacturers Assn.	1
Portland Cement Association	1
Scientific Apparatus Makers	1
Silk Association of America	1
Society of Motion Picture Engineers	1

Sponsoring Agencies	*Number of References*
Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association	1
Southern Pine Association	1
Steel Joist Institute	1
Tanners' Council	1
U. S. Field Hockey Association	1
U. S. Lawn Tennis Association	1
West Coast Lumbermen's Association	1
Western Pine Association	1

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS *by W. J. Donald. Published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, bound in cloth, 6 x 9 inches, 437 pages, $4.00.*

This timely book discusses various phases of trade association management, organization, membership, and meetings; it also deals with problems concerning officers, staff, and services. It is of interest to trade association officers, industrial executives, and students of industry organization.

The book contains an important discussion of the preparation of codes of fair competition under the National Industrial Recovery Act.

In connection with the new legal status of trade associations the book states that "so long has dealing with the problem of prices been limited by legal limitations and, even more important, by fears of legal prosecution, that industries and trades are in danger of giving a quite disproportionate share of attention to possible ways of stabilizing, raising, or controlling them under the Industrial Recovery Act." Valuable discussion brings out much of interest with reference to the new legal status of trade associations.

The author states that unemployment reserves ought to be handled for entire industries through trade associations. This and other new services will be essential to the future era of economic planning in which trade associations, if they are to continue, must assume a large share of responsibility. The author discusses the proportioning of production among the various units of an industry by definite agreement, and the collection of an increasing amount of definite and detailed statistical and other information about the industry. A brief discussion of standardization in relation to the NRA codes states that "the National Industrial Recovery Act permits not only the promulgation of standards but also their enforcement on all members of an industry."

The book includes current bibliographical material of interest to trade associations; also models for constitutions, by-laws, articles of incorporation, and minutes.

Orders may be placed with the McGraw-Hill Book Company, 330 West 42nd Street, New York, or through the ASA office.—F. F.

Schedule Rating Discontinued by Insurance Companies

The discontinuance of schedule rating by casualty insurance companies, already effective in 16 states and the District of Columbia, places renewed emphasis on the necessity for advancing the national safety code program. The schedule rating plan was a plan for determining the physical hazards of a plant as compared with average conditions in the industry and for applying fixed charges against the hazards not removed in accordance with the requirements of the schedule. The insurance companies pioneered in the development of safety specifications, but the necessity for a separate group of specifications has been diminished because of the development of governmental regulations and the American Standard safety code program.

The safety requirements of the schedule have in effect been a national group of specifications for the removal of accident hazards, and under the policy which has been followed by the National Council on Workmen's Compensation Insurance, the safety requirements of the schedule and the American Standard safety codes have been gradually brought into harmony. The elimination of schedule rating, therefore, places the national safety code program in the forefront as the only existing national group of safety specifications.

The insurance groups have actively supported the safety code program and will continue this activity in the future with renewed emphasis. The greater extent of use of American Standard safety codes by state regulatory bodies is, therefore, gradually bringing into existence a uniform system of safety specifications and regulations which is not only satisfactory but is also widely approved and followed by industry, governmental agencies, and insurance groups.

Error in Article on Rims and Tires

Due to a stenographic error in preparing the abstract from the minutes of the international meeting on Rims, Tires, and Valves, published on page 192 of the November issue of INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION AND COMMERCIAL STANDARDS MONTHLY, the last sentence of the section on "Flat base rims for commercial vehicles" was made to read: "The use of rim diameters in *all* inch sizes greater than 15 inches was not recommended." The sentence should read: "The use of rim diameters in *odd* inch sizes greater than 15 inches was not recommended."

ASA PROJECTS

A Review of Mining Projects Under ASA Procedure

The third of a series of reviews of standardization projects under the procedure of the American Standards Association

The status of all mining projects under the procedure of the American Standards Association is summarized in the following review. The data presented are taken from the files of the American Standards Association and are corrected to January 1, 1934, bringing up to date the review of mining projects under ASA procedure published in the issue of December, 1932.

M2-1926—Safety Rules for Installing and Using Electrical Equipment in Coal Mines

Sponsors—American Mining Congress; U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Mines.

This standard, which is based upon earlier recommendations of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, is quite generally followed by American coal mines. No revisions are under way at present.

In the preparation of these safety measures the extra hazard of mining operations caused emphasis to be placed upon the proper location of apparatus and conductors, and also upon the complete control of electric current and electrical equipment through protection devices. Both general and specific points concerning electrical equipment in mine structures on the surface, as well as underground, have been covered. Particular attention has been given to the prevention of fires and accidents.

M5-1932—Methods for Screen Testing of Ores (Hand Method)

Sponsor—American Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers.

This method of laboratory procedure, developed by the Milling Committee of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, presents details of recommended methods for screen testing of ores but does not attempt to standardize screens or sieve cloth. These subjects are under the jurisdiction of the Sectional Committee on Sieves for Testing Purposes (Z23).

M6-1931—Drainage of Coal Mines

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

This standard, revised in 1931, presents detailed recommendations covering the installation and operation of mine drainage equipment. Among the topics covered are the following: pumps, piping, storage of mine waters, limitations of natural drainage, methods of unwatering abandoned workings, the effect of mine waters on drainage equipment, and recommendations regarding the use of acid-resisting metals and alloys.

M7—Coal-Mine Tracks, Signals, and Switches

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

Revision of a previous standard for this project, commenced by the sponsor in May, 1930, resulted in the approval in March, 1933, of Frogs, Switches, and Turnouts for Coal-Mine Tracks (M7.1-1933) as American Recommended Practice. The revised document presents detailed and accepted designs for these important parts of coal-mine tracks, and covers these sections of the project more comprehensively than the previous standards.

M10-1928—Miscellaneous Outside Coal-Handling Equipment

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

Approved as American Tentative Standard in 1928, this standard includes sections on systems of signals for hoisting, recommended safe methods for tipple practice, and fire protection of shafts and structures adjacent to mine openings. Revision has been under consideration by the sponsor but no reports have been received by the ASA office.

M11-1927—Wire Rope for Mines

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

This specification for wire rope gives detailed

requirements for the rope itself and also recommendations for attachments, clamps, and lubrication. The rope specified is suitable for many industrial purposes as well as for mines; in consequence, the standard has been widely distributed.

M12-1928—Construction and Maintenance of Ladders and Stairs for Mines

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

Revision of this code, under consideration for a year, has been delayed until a revision of the general safety code for ladders (A14-1923) has been completed. Previous editions of these two codes have been correlated, and this desirable feature will be continued in the revised documents.

M13-1925—Rock Dusting of Coal Mines

Sponsor—American Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers.

Since the introduction of rock dusting into American coal-mining practice, first proposed to the Director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines by George S. Rice in 1910, a continuous campaign to extend its use has been carried on by Bureau engineers. The present code, approved as American Recommended Practice in 1925, follows recommendations of the Bureau of Mines. The value of rock dusting, so generally recognized in recent years, has been strikingly demonstrated on several occasions where dust and gas explosions, which in a non-rock-dusted mine might have been major disasters, have been localized to small sections of the underground workings.

M14-1930—Use of Explosives in Bituminous Coal Mines

Sponsor—Mine Inspectors' Institute of America.

The proper handling of explosives in bituminous coal mines is treated at length by detailed recommendations in this standard, approved as American Recommended Practice in 1930.

Although projects have not yet been initiated, consideration has been given to the development of similar safety codes for anthracite and metal mines.

M15-1931—Safety Code for Coal Mine Transportation

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

In this standard, approved in 1931 as a revision of an earlier document, recommendations providing for safe transportation of coal in all underground and surface operations are included. Haulage both in the mine and on the surface to bins and railroad cars, and also hoisting through inclines or shafts are safeguarded by detailed provisions covering construction and operation.

M17-1930—Fire Fighting Equipment in Metal Mines

Sponsors—American Mining Congress; National Fire Protection Association.

General adoption of this code, used by many large mining companies for several years, may be expected whenever a general resumption of metal mining occurs. Approved by ASA as American Recommended Practice in 1930, the standard provides methods for fire prevention; fire fighting equipment and personnel; and for warning miners of fires by flashing lights on the electrical circuits or by the addition to the air lines of chemicals with a disagreeable odor.

M18-1928—Underground Transportation in Metal Mines

M19-1928—Mechanical Loading Underground in Metal Mines

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

Revision of these standards has been under consideration in the American Mining Congress and drafts of certain sections have been prepared, but the ASA office has not had recent advice on the status of these projects.

M20-1933—Classification of Coals

Sponsor—American Society for Testing Materials.

A summary of the status of this project, on which an enormous amount of research has been performed, was prepared by A. C. Fieldner, chairman of the sectional committee, for the December, 1933, issue of INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION (p. 219).

M21—Specifications for Coal Mine Cars

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

On this project, intended to bring about economies to both equipment manufacturers and also mine operators by the development of specifications for certain elements of coal-mine cars, such as couplers, draw bars, wheels, bearings, bumpers, etc., progress has been slow. F. C. Hohn, chairman of the Sectional Committee for Coal Mine Tracks, Signals and Switches (M7), accepted the chairman-

ship of M21 early in 1933 and has mapped out a tentative program.

M22—Specifications for Mine Timbering

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

Drafts covering preservative treatment for mine timbers, first issued in 1931, have been circulated to mining engineers interested in the subject and replies have indicated the general acceptability of the proposed practice.

M24-1932—Safety Rules for Installing and Using Electrical Equipment in Metal Mines

Sponsor—American Mining Congress.

The provisions of this standard, approved as American Recommended Practice on August 23, 1932, apply to both the installation and operation of electrical equipment in and around metal mines. The following important topics are covered: general supervisory requirements; stationary electrical equipment located underground, or in buildings and enclosures on the surface; portable electrical equipment; substations and conductors for both stationary and portable equipment; and a section defining the terms used in the text of the standard.

M25—Specifications for Trolley, Storage Battery, and Combination-Type Locomotives for Coal Mines

Sponsors—American Institute of Electrical Engineers; American Mining Congress; National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

Progress on this project has been largely confined to activities of committees of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. During the past two years about 40 standards affecting storage battery and combination-type locomotives have been considered by the N.E.M.A. group to supplement their work on trolley locomotives, which had been initiated in previous years. Although agreement has been reached on many questions, the N.E.M.A. committees have not been in a position to prepare definite recommendations.

M26—Specifications for Clean Bituminous Coal

Sponsor—American Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers.

Following a request from the A.I.M.E., a sectional committee to develop specifications for clean bituminous coal was set up in 1932, with N. G. Alford of Eavenson, Alford & Hicks, Pittsburgh, as chairman. A subcommittee on Methods of Sampling and Testing was authorized, with T. W. Guy, consulting engineer, Charleston, West Virginia, as chairman. Since its organization this subcommittee has been actively studying the sampling of coal and also float-and-sink methods for analyzing coal. The work of this subcommittee supplements the program of A.S.T.M. Committee D-5 on Coal and Coke, which developed the present American Standards for sampling and analyzing coal and coke (ASA: X1-1921 and K18-1933; and ASTM: D21-16 and D271-30, respectively).

Standards for Gas-Burning Appliances Published

Five American Standards covering gas-burning appliances recently approved by the American Standards Association are now available in printed form. These standards were developed by the Sectional Committee on Approval and Installation requirements for Gas-Burning Appliances (Z21), which is under the sponsorship of the American Gas Association. These standards comprise American Standard Approval Requirements for Hot Plates and Laundry Stoves (Z21.9-1933), American Standard Approval Requirements for Gas Water Heaters (Z21.10-1933), American Standard Approval Requirements for Gas Space Heaters (Z21.11-1933), American Standard Listing Requirements for Draft Hoods (Z21.12-1933), and a revision of American Standard Approval Requirements for Gas Ranges (Z21.1-1933). This latter is a revision of the American Standard approved in 1932. All of these requirements are to become effective on June 1, 1934.

In the preparation of all these requirements, the Testing Laboratory of the American Gas Association has played an important role. In the case of draft hoods, for instance, extensive investigation relating to design and performance of the various types and sizes was necessary, since there existed no standards for draft hoods in the gas-burning appliance field to serve as a guide. Construction requirements in this standard provide for inlet pipe and collars, strength of hoods, resistance to high temperatures, assembly and installation. Performance requirements include sections on capacity, relief openings, resistance to down- and up-drafts, spillage, and performance at high rates of gas flow.

Provisions for insulated ovens are an important addition to the revised requirements for gas ranges (Z21.1-1933). The revisions also include the addition of sections on draft hoods, and changes of varying importance in sections relating to burners, lighters, grates, linings, tops, heat distribution, etc. Closely allied with the formulation of these requirements for gas ranges was the development of approval requirements for hot plates and laundry stoves (Z21.9-1933), approved by ASA earlier this year. Since 1925, however, these requirements have been handled as a separate project.

Basic standards of safety, durability, and performance for gas water heaters (Z21.10-1933) resulted from an investigation undertaken jointly by the A.G.A. Testing Laboratory and the National Bureau of Standards some years ago. These have been brought up to date from time to time, and it is the fourth edition which has now been accepted by the technical committee of the ASA and formally approved as American Standard. This comprehensive document covers all parts of the heater, from the point of view both of construction and of performance, including safety provisions to prevent the escape of unburned gas, and to eliminate fire hazards.

The requirements for gas space heaters (Z21.11-1933) went through four editions as A.G.A. standards prior to reference to the ASA technical committee and approval as American Standard. Sections on burners, pilots, cocks, manifold connections, flue outlets, and assembly have been brought into conformity with the most recent developments, and a section on automatic devices to prevent escape of unburned gas has been added.

The Approval Requirements for Gas Ranges, for Hot Plates and Laundry Stoves, for Gas Water Heaters, and for Gas Space Heaters are all available at 40 cents each. The Listing Requirements for Draft Hoods are available at 30 cents each. Copies may be purchased from the American Gas Association, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, or from the American Standards Association. ASA Members ordering copies from the ASA office are entitled to the usual 20 per cent discount.

Meeting of Committee on Safety Code for Exhaust Systems

At the recent organization meeting of the Sectional Committee of the Safety Code for Exhaust Systems (Z9), John Roach, Bureau of Hygiene and Sanitation, New Jersey Department of Labor, Trenton, was elected chairman of the committee. Cyril Ainsworth, assistant secretary of the American Standards Association, was elected secretary.

A Committee on Plan and Scope will be appointed by the chairman of the sectional committee to define the scope of the project and to prepare a plan for the operation of the committee's work. This committee will work with the committee on Plan and Scope of the Sectional Committee of the Ventilation Code in order that there will be no duplication of the work of the two sectional committees.

Research has already made available scientific information on stone cutting, rock drilling in mines and quarries, foundry work and sand blasting, and chromium plating, and this will be used by the committee in studying the work to be accomplished.

The organizations represented at the first meeting of the sectional committee were: American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers; American Society of Mechanical Engineers; American Standards Association ; International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions; National Association of Mutual Casualty Companies; National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters; National Electrical Manufacturers Association; U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry & Soils; U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Mines; U. S. Public Health Service.

The International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions is sponsor for the project.

Chairman Elected for Ventilation Code Committee

W. H. Driscoll, representing the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, was elected chairman of the Sectional Committee of the Ventilation Code (Z5), under the sponsorship of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, at the recent organization meeting of the committee. The appointment of a permanent secretary was delegated to the chairman by the committee.

The chairman was authorized to appoint a Committee on Plan and Scope. This committee will prepare a plan of operation for distribution to the members.

Suggestions made during the meeting for consideration by the Committee on Plan and Scope included: formation of two divisions, one on safety standards

and the other on comfort standards; formation of a separate division for the consideration of ventilation as related to the electrical industry; inclusion in the scope of refrigeration and air conditioning; inclusion of ventilation of passenger-carrying vehicles; and consideration, from the insurance angle, of safety to property, as well as of safety to health.

One of the activities of the Committee on Scope probably will be the codification of the various theories and schools of thought on ventilation. It was brought to the attention of the committee that the American Institute of Architects has recommended the scrapping of existing documents on ventilation because of the confusion which exists due to the unsound theories which are the basis for many of the present practices.

The organizations represented at the meeting are: Acoustical Society of America; American Hospital Association; American Railway Association; American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers; American Society of Refrigerating Engineers; American Transit Association; American Welding Society; National Board of Fire Underwriters; National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters; National Electrical Manufacturers Association; National Fire Protection Association; National Tuberculosis Association; National Safety Council; Producers Council Inc.; Society of Automotive Engineers; U. S. Navy Department, Bureau of Construction and Repair; U. S. Public Health Service.

New Wood Pole Standards Approved by ASA

New standard specifications and dimensions in the series on wood poles, prepared by the Sectional Committee on Wood Poles (O5) under the sponsorship of the ASA Telephone Group, were approved on December 27, by the American Standards Association.

The documents include a revision of Ultimate Fiber Stresses of Wood Poles (O5a-1930) to include ultimate fiber stress values for lodgepole pine poles at 6600 lb per sq in. and for Douglas fir (creosoted poles) at 7400 lb per sq in. This revised standard was approved as American Standard. The new standard Specifications for Lodgepole Pine Poles (O5f1-1933) were approved as American Tentative Standard, and dimensions for the same type of poles (O5f3-1933) were approved as American Standard. Specifications for Douglas Fir Poles (O5g-1933) were approved as American Tentative Standard, and Dimensions of Douglas Fir Poles (O5g2-1933) were approved as American Standard.

A detailed description of these standards will be published in a forthcoming issue of INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION AND COMMERCIAL STANDARDS MONTHLY.

ESC Re-Elects Officers

Charles Rufus Harte, The Connecticut Company, New Haven, representing the American Transit Association, was re-elected chairman of the Electrical Standards Committee at the annual meeting on December 12, 1933. Sidney Withington, electrical engineer of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad, New Haven, representing the American Railway Association, was re-elected vice-chairman of the committee. P. G. Agnew, secretary of the American Standards Association, and J. W. McNair, electrical engineer on the ASA staff, are secretary and assistant secretary of the ESC.

No Tolerance?

Evidence of a lack of appreciation concerning tolerances crops up in unexpected places. A customer demands "accuracy within a thousandth—in fact we can allow no tolerance whatever." And this on a job where errors are sure to accumulate and affect over-all dimensions.

No shop manager can conscientiously accept such an order. But the chances are that some one who knows of the inability of the customer to check errors within a thousandth or two will take a chance that whatever slight errors exist will never be detected.

The sooner customers learn that there is no such thing as perfection, and to specify tolerances as wide as possible, the less grief will be had by all concerned. There is still much need of education as to tolerances and the sooner they are understood the better.—*From "American Machinist", June 21, 1933.*

Book on Iron Alloys Available

The ASA library has a copy of *The Alloys of Iron and Silicon* by Earl S. Greiner, J. S. Marsh, and Bradley Stoughton, which can be borrowed by Members of the American Standards Association. The book is published by the McGraw-Hill Book Company, and the price is $5.00 per copy.